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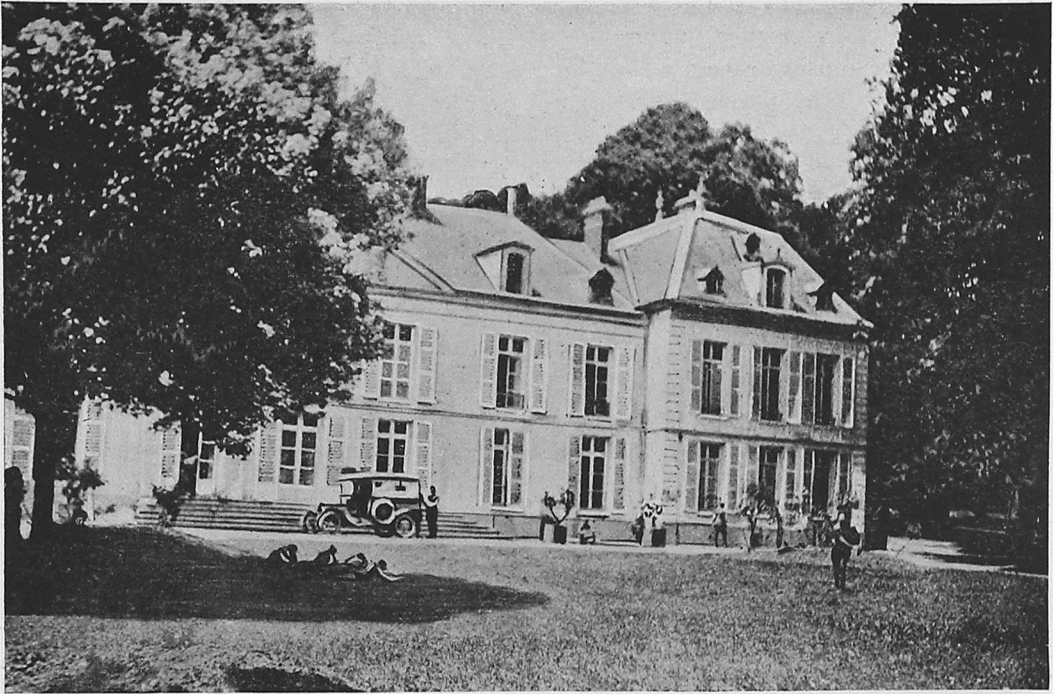
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Y. M. C. A. AND HOSPITAL. THIS CHATEAU WAS OCCUPIED BY GERMANS IN THEIR FIRST RUSH. Y. M. C. A. PAPER CAMIONETTE STANDS IN FRONT

—Photo by Publicity Bureau, Y. M. C. A. War Work Council

Barracks and Chateaux

By ESTELLINE BENNETT

AMERICAN boys who have dreamt, in the unromantic times of peace, that they dwelt in marble halls, are realizing the rare, beautiful experience of having their dreams come true. Sometimes direct from the transports, and sometimes out of the mud of the trenches and from under enemy fire, boys in khaki are marching into quarters in some of the loveliest old chateaux of France.

From "Somewhere in France," an officer writes home: "We are at present housed in an old Chateau and while all the furniture is gone, the chateau itself is beautiful, and although the old kit bag still furnishes all comforts and we have no table to eat from, we are spared the anxiety of expect-

ing to be interrupted by guns before we get to the sweet course."

From "a certain French town" another man in khaki writes: "The American soldiers here enjoy doughnuts, coffee, moving pictures, and similar solaces of war in the majestic palace of the Princess of Lorraine."

Many of the chateaux in which the men are quartered have interesting and romantic histories.

The Chateau of the Duc de Valencay in the south of France where the Prince de Talleyrand was living when Napoleon looked around for a safe place to entertain his unwilling guest, King Ferdinand VII of Spain, now is occupied by American



HEADQUARTERS OF AN AMERICAN ARMY IN FRANCE IN A CHATEAU

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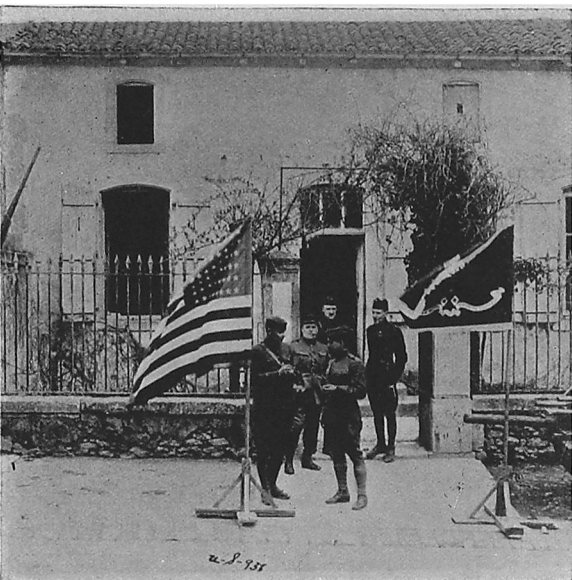
army officers on short leave. The chateau which is rich in works of art, stands in a splendid park of nine thousand acres and has facilities for golf and tennis. The Baronne de Seilliere, an American by birth, and an aunt of the Duc de Valencay, acts as patroness and exercises a general supervision over the entertainment of the visiting officers.

It is more than a hundred years since the Castilian monarch spent seven years a captive in the chateau and found his captivity so luxurious and charming that he refused to leave and go home when he was set free. It was only the clamorous insistence of his subjects that finally convinced him of his country's need of him, and persuaded him to turn his back on his beloved prison.

The apartment the Spanish king occupied still contains all the original furnishings including rare paintings and tapestries, and is open to visitors.

The beautiful Chateau de Clermont built in 1640 has been offered by the Comte de Maupassant, cousin of the late Guy de Maupassant, to the American Consul at Nantes for the use of the American Expeditionary Forces. It is admirably situated in wooded land overlooking the river Loire on the main line from Saint-Nazaire to Paris. The chateau has an interesting museum containing many authentic documents of historical interest and beautiful Gobelin tapestries hang in the grand salon. This chateau is one of the finest and most historically interesting residences in France.

These chateaux are opened by the Young



BARRACKS IN A CHATEAU
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Men's Christian Association as "leave spots" for American officers on short leave and more such chateau-clubs both for officers and soldiers, will be opened through France now that the recent United War Work Campaign makes them possible.

All the welfare organizations in France are occasionally housed in these picturesque, romantic and charming old chateaux.

The Salvation Army lassies whose daily lot is in dug-outs, old stables, and bomb-wrecked French houses, now and then find themselves frying doughnuts, rolling out pie-crust, and mending soldiers' socks in the tapestry-hung salon of an old chateau.

The Knights of Columbus sometimes open a "hut" in an abandoned chateau, though for the most part their huts are hastily constructed affairs thrown up where they will be nearest and of most use to the soldier.

The Y. W. C. A. has opened a garderie in a chateau near Lyon for the women of the factory at the Parc d'Artillerie. Among other services rendered by the Blue Triangle secretaries at this garderie is the care of the little children of the women workers in the munition plant and one of them writing home expresses her gratification that the chateau garderie has "a lovely garden for the babies to play in."

But it is because of the rarity of the chateau that it looms so large in the stories that come from overseas. Most huts, hutments and foyers are housed in dug-outs, shacks, particularly wrecked houses. The overseas welfare agencies start their fire and put on the coffee wherever the men are expected in from battle—some-

times at the very firing line itself—and wherever tired, heart-broken munition makers and over-worked, over-wrought nurses can find them when they have a moment to rest.

It is to carry on this work and the work in the training camps and cantonments on this side that the United War Work Campaign launched the recent drive for \$170,500,000. The following organizations co-operated in the raising of this money and the total amount will be divided among them as follows:

Young Men's Christian Association	\$100,000,000
Young Women's Christian Association	15,000,000
National Catholic War Council	30,000,000
Jewish Welfare Board	3,500,000
American Library Association	3,500,000
War Camp Community Service	15,000,000
Salvation Army	3,500,000